



**CITY OF LONG BEACH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE**  
**COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND CHILDREN**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 27, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Pierre Batton, Co-Chair, called the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children to order at 5:08 p.m., in the large conference room at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Senior Center. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

**Present:**

Sotheara Chhay  
Fabian Gonzalez  
Helen Ingram  
Marty Isozaki  
Kate Levinstein  
Jeanetta McAlpin  
Jon Meyer

Victor Perez  
Lauren Perry  
Jessica Quintana  
Marc Rothenberg  
Chanel Soares  
Mary Soth  
Chelsii Summerville

**Absent:**

Lou Santos (excused)  
Alexis Peterson (excused)

Jennifer To (pending resignation)

**Staff:**

Cynthia Fogg, Superintendent, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Andrew Romero, Youth Specialist, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Dan Hendricks, Commission Clerk, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

**Guests:**

Jennifer Songster, LBPL  
Diane Lewis, Bureau Manager, Community Enrichment Bureau  
Cecile Harris Walters, Neighborhood Services Bureau  
Erika Cubias, Centro CHA  
Dr. Felix Aguilar, Department of Health and Human Services  
Louis Marquez, Senator Lowenthal's office

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner Levinstein to approve the March 23, 2005 Commission on Youth and Children minutes with corrections. The motion carried unanimously.**

**III. COMMENTS**

Summer Hansen of the Be Friendly Community addressed the Commission regarding Children's Day, which was referred to the Commission by City Council. Though the referral had been scheduled under new business, Co-Chair Turrentine decided to address the issue at this time, as Summer was commenting on it. Summer Hansen passed out several fliers for her Children's Day event, both for this year, and one from

a previous year. Summer detailed her hope that everyone does something for Children's Day and asked that the CYC help it to become a custom. She additionally requested volunteers for May 1, 2005 for this year's Children's Day. Co-Chair Turrentine indicated that the referral from City Council had two separate sections, the request for volunteers this year, and a request for assistance next year.

**It was moved by Commissioner Soth and seconded by Commissioner Ingram to approve the participation of available CYC Commissioners at the May 1, 2005 Children's Day Event and to receive and file the referral and lay it over for discussion of future activities. The motion carried unanimously.**

Superintendent Cynthia Fogg gave the Commissioners information on attending the May 1, 2005 activities, and indicated that Long Beach Youth Services would have a presence at the event. Co-Chair Turrentine also assured Summer Hansen that the CYC would be addressing the future participation of the Commission at Children's Day, and requested the specifics of what the Be Friendly Community was requesting of the Commission. In particular, Co-Chair Turrentine requested that Summer Hansen provide, in writing, the nature of the request made to Councilwoman Uranga, as well as additional information, in writing, for their discussion. Specifically, Co-Chair Turrentine was interested in the membership and goals of Be Community Friendly program, and the scope of the event planned, including costs of events, security, etc. Co-Chair Turrentine requested that this information be submitted to the CYC by June 1, 2005 so the Commission could address the referral in a timely manner.

Commissioner Meyer drew attention to an article citing Co-Chair Pierre Batton as being undefeated in his most recent tennis competition and congratulated him on his success.

Commissioner McAlpin talked about her experience in the Khmai Parade, and indicated that she represented the Commission in that parade.

Commissioner Soth discussed the Strategic Plan, and specifically the stated goal to "make sure that every child enters school ready to learn." This duty was designated to the Child Care Coordinator position. Additionally, a task force was formed to work on a five-year plan to help prepare children for school. However, Michelle Sartell, the previous Child Care Coordinator has recently left that position, and there was some concern that the now empty position might not be filled due to budget concerns. Commissioner Soth requested that staff determine if the position was indeed in danger of not being filled, and if so, that the Commission offer a recommendation that the position be filled.

#### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

Superintendent Cynthia Fogg made a presentation to Commissioner Mary Soth to thank her for her work with the Profile Project Committee.

Andrew Romero also took the opportunity to thank Commissioner Isozaki for attending the April 19, 2005 City Council meeting and staying until 11:00 pm in case the Council had any questions regarding the recommendations.

Mr. Romero also detailed the future plans of those Commissioners graduating from High School this year. Commissioner Perry will be attending Cal State Long Beach, Commissioner Gonzalez has been accepted at Cal State San Diego, Commissioner Levinstein has been accepted at the University of Chicago, Commissioners Chhay and Suarez will be going to UCLA, and Commission Co-Chair Batton will be attending Long Beach City College and then go on to USC.

Commissioner Soth and Cynthia Fogg will be on a panel for the LA Children's Planning Council City Leaders Summit.

Ms. Fogg then introduced the Parks and Recreation Commissioner Bill Marmion, representing the Miller Foundation. Mr. Marmion presented a check to the Long Beach Youth Fund via Partners of Parks from the Miller Foundation. Mr. Marmion spoke about the importance of youth engagement in civic affairs and reminisced about his own civic involvement when he was a youth. Mr. Marmion expressed interest in the works of the Commission on Youth and Children and request that even after he retire from the Parks and Recreation Commission, that he be kept on the mailing list for the CYC minutes.

**It was moved by Commissioner Soth and seconded by Commissioner Ingram to accept the Youth Fund donation and authorize staff to deposit it in the Partners of Parks account. The motion carried unanimously.**

Cynthia Fogg discussed Charter Communication's Enough is Enough telethon sponsored by the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force and Leadership Long Beach, in conjunction with the Press-Telegram. They are requesting a CYC presence in the telethon, particularly from the youth members of the Commission.

**It was moved by Commission Co-Chair Batton and seconded by Commissioner Soth to approve participation in the Enough is Enough telethon. The motion carried unanimously.**

Andrew Romero reported on the Community Issues Forum at Cal State Long Beach on April 21, 2005. Mr. Romero was on the planning committee, but noted that given the time of the forum, very few youth would be able to attend. However, Commissioner Meyer and LBUSD helped him facilitate youth getting excused from school to attend the forum. Mr. Romero talked about the excellent job that Commissioner Perry and several members of the Long Beach Youth Fund did in addressing the forum and answering any questions directed at them.

## **V. CO-CHAIRS REPORT TO THE COMMISSION**

Co-Chair Batton reported on the proposed Afterschool Challenge event in Washington, D.C., and that the decision had been made to not attend as the expense would have precluded other trips this year, and it was felt that it would be better to attend the California League of Cities event in San Francisco in October.

Co-Chair Turrentine mentioned her attendance at a luncheon in Councilmember Colonna's district, where a presentation on the city budget was made. Specifically, that if the Commission wishes to add input on the budget, they would need to provide any input by July. Co-Chair Turrentine suggested that the Commission address this as soon as possible.

Both Co-Chairs attended a League of Women Voters event where they served on a panel, and Co-Chair Turrentine wished to thank Co-Chair Batton for his presence and eloquence at the event.

## **VI. REPORTS**

### **a. Committees**

#### **I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Commissioners Turrentine and Batton, Co-Chairs**

**(12 April 05)**

Planned the agenda for the regular meeting, and met with Michelle Perrenoud, who is coordinating the tapings for the telethon. They also discussed the new calendar, which combines DLYAC meetings and Executive Committee meetings with Councilmembers.

#### **II. PROFILE PROJECT COMMITTEE Committee Co-Chairs Levinstein and Peterson**

The Profile Project committee is on hiatus until the City Council determines whether or not to continue the project.

#### **III. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE Committee Co-Chairs Chhay and McAlpin**

Commissioner Chhay discussed their ideas for a slogan. After substantial debate, it was determined that the tagline "... where voices of youth matter." had the most support among the Commission at large.

**It was moved by Commissioner Levinstein and seconded by Commission Co-Chair Batton to approve the tagline "... where voices of youth matter." For use by the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **b. Standing Items**

#### **I. Education and Youth Strategic Plan**

There were no comments on the plan at this meeting.

#### **II. District Level Youth Advisory Councils**

##### **a. Report on September DLYAC meetings.**

Andrew Romero and the various youth Commissioners present reported on the following schedules for the District Level Youth Advisory Councils. He indicated that many had difficulty meeting as the High Schools were having AP testing this month.

*District 1* Did Not Meet

*District 2* Did Not Meet

*District 3* Discussion of school violence

*District 4* Planning Beach Clean-up

*District 5* Discussed methods of recruiting new members

*District 6* Public school open house was going on, and meeting was a bit chaotic

*District 7* Discussed Alley Clean-up plans and curfew

*District 8* Discussed Community Issues Forum

*District 9* Discussed participation in a neighborhood clean up

The DLYAC flyer is in a final draft, and permission is being sought from LBUSD to distribute at their campuses.

**b. Requests for DLYAC involvement/participation**

**III. Youth and Gang Violence Task Force**

Discussed the upcoming Enough is Enough telethon and touched on the continuing recent violence in Long Beach.

**IV. Long Beach Youth Fund**

Application due date extended

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Incoming** – None

**Outgoing** – Letter to City Council dated April 19, 2005

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) Workshops for CYC (May 26<sup>th</sup>, 04)**

Awaiting information on the possibility of contracting the development of a handbook in lieu of two workshops.

**b. Harbor Commission**

Cynthia Fogg had heard that the Harbor Commission still wishes to donate funds for the Youth Fund, but wants to do so in conjunction with the Water Department. Superintendent Fogg suggested meeting with these bodies to determine the best course of action.

**c. CYC Annual Report, January 04-December 04, including the Profile of Long Beach Youth and Children**

Pending response from the Council's Finance Committee and the City Council at large.

**d. CYC Policies and Procedures Second reading of Commission on Youth and Children Policies and Procedures draft, with changes.**

**It was moved by Commissioner Gonzalez and seconded by Commissioner McAlpin to approve the Commission on Youth and Children Policies and Procedures. The motion carried unanimously.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **City Council Referrals** The referral from the City Council regarding the Be Friendly Community and Children's Day activities was addressed during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.
- b. **Childhood Obesity Mitigation Pilot Project** – Dr. Felix Aguilar addressed the Commission regarding the problem of Childhood Obesity. He discussed the content of Senate Bill 479, worked on by Senator Lowenthal, which would create a pilot program with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, local hospitals, the Children's Clinic, and the YMCA to create a childhood obesity program. Louis Marquez, a spokesman for Senator Lowenthal also spoke to the Commission. He asked that the Commission sign a support letter for the bill. He summarized the bill, and answered some questions about the City's support of the bill. Many Commissioners were interested in the data collection aspect of the pilot project, and wondered if any data obtained could be shared with the Commission's Profile Committee. They were assured that the data would be made available to them for use in the Profile.

**It was moved by Commissioner Quintana and seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to receive and file the report and approve support letter to Senator Lowenthal and recommend that the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine participate in the pilot program, if passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

**X. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 25, at 5:00 p.m.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Commissioner Chhay and seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting of the Commission on Youth and Children at 7:22 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.**

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